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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/231,114	01/14/1999	HIROYUKI FUNAHASHI	102580	3398
25944	7590	08/11/2006		
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			EXAMINER KANG, PAUL H	
			ART UNIT 2144	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 08/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/231,114

Applicant(s)

FUNAHASHI, HIROYUKI

Examiner

Paul H. Kang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 22-33 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 January 1999 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/9/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-6, 8-9 and 11-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Venkatraman et al., US Pat. No. 6,170,007 B1 in view of Atozawa et al., JP5153121.

3. As to claims 1, 3, 8, 11, 15, 16, 17 and 18, Venkatraman teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Venkatraman teaches a network system comprising a plurality of terminals interconnected via a network; and a controller that controls the terminals via the network, the controller comprising selecting means for selecting and controlling the plurality of terminals based on a user's designation, the terminals including printers as well as recording media (Venkatraman, col. 2, lines 16-55 and col. 3, line 9-65).

However, Venkatraman does not explicitly teach at least two of the terminals each adapted to obtain information on the other terminals therefrom, requesting means for requesting the selected terminal to transmit, to the controller, information on all the interconnected terminals; wherein the selected terminal transmits a request to the other interconnected terminals to obtain the information on the other interconnected terminals, the other interconnected

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terminals forward to the selected terminal the information on the other interconnected terminals in response to the request, and the selected terminal forwards to the controller the information from the other interconnected terminals and information on the selected terminal.

In the same field of endeavor, Atozawa teaches a method and apparatus for an efficient network management system. Atozawa teaches a requesting means for requesting the selected terminal to transmit, to the controller, information on all the interconnected terminals;

wherein the selected terminal transmits a request to the other interconnected terminals to obtain the information on the other interconnected terminals, the other interconnected terminals forward to the selected terminal the information on the other interconnected terminals in response to the request, and the selected terminal forwards to the controller the information from the other interconnected terminals and information on the selected terminal. (Atozawa teaches a controller, managing device 4, connected to terminals 6a-6i. Node 6g calls for and collects management information from devices to which it is connected, specifically nodes 6d, 6e and 6f. Node 6g then forwards the management information to the managing device 4. This serves to reduce the number of requests the managing device 4 must make to the remote nodes. Atozawa, Abstract and Fig. 1).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the multiple device information obtaining means as taught by Atozawa into the system of Venkatraman for the purpose of improving the management system by reducing communication workload of the controller.

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4. As to claims 2 and 12, Venkatraman-Atozawa teach a system wherein the information on each of the other terminals includes link information for identifying the each terminal on the network (Venkatraman, col. 3, lines 9-45).

5. As to claims 4 and 19, Venkatraman-Atozawa teach the system further comprising an interface interconnecting one terminal and the network; the controller further including an interface information obtaining means for obtaining information on the interface therefrom when the one terminal transmits the information on all the terminals to the controller (Venkatraman, col. 3, lines 9-45 and Atozawa, Abstract).

6. As to claims 5 and 20, Venkatraman-Atozawa teach a setting changing means for changing the setting or settings of the terminal transmitting the information to the controller, or of the interface (Venkatraman, col. 3, lines 9-65).

7. As to claims 6, 9 and 13, Venkatraman-Atozawa teach a memory for storing the information on all the terminals (each node is a networked device, having a memory for storing information therein. Atozawa, Abstract).

8. As to claims 7, 10 and 21, Venkatraman-Atozawa teach a memory for storing the information on all the terminals (Venkatraman teaches a network node comprising a printer. See Venkatraman, col. 1, lines 17-30).

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 22-33 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul H. Kang whose telephone number is (571) 272-3882. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 hour flex. First Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Vaughn can be reached on (571) 272-3922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


PAUL H. KANG
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER